

I General Comments

	COMMENT	RESPONSE
A	Implementing a trail will decrease property values	Based on a recent study conducted by the Trust for Public Land, San Jose homes located within 500 feet of a park or trail have a collective increased property value of \$1 billion. The National Association of Realtors prepared a 2009 report that found a 20% premium on home values when they're located immediately adjacent to a park.
B	Trail reduces resident's enjoyment of creek Neighbors backing up to the creek are the most concerned	The physical character of the creek is not changing with the implementation of a trail. Trails have been successfully implemented where they pass directly behind homes.
C	Will the SCVWD let water flow in the creek?	Water flow in the creek is directly related to rainfall. There is no dam upstream that restricts flow to this segment of San Tomas Aquino Creek.
D	Is there an opportunity for a solar field?	The purpose of the study is to define a trail alignment. Consideration of a solar field may be conducted as part of other/future studies. Staff is unaware of any such plans for this area at this time.
E	Using the word 'passive' for the trail is good	Trails represent a passive use.

II Connections

	COMMENT	RESPONSE
A	Concern raised about where trail is accessed.	Preliminary trail alignment shows trail access points. The trail will be accessed from public streets where the public already has access.
B	Will trail be access controlled or open to the public? Suggestion to have trail accessed controlled and used by those with a key fob.	Trail will be open to the public. An accessible trail system will support usage by persons seeking exercise or active transportation. This should contribute to additional observation of the corridor and may support reduction in undesirable activities.
C	Will motorcycles be able to get on the trail?	Vehicular trail access will be limited to police and maintenance. Locked bollards or gates may be used to restrict vehicles from entering trail. Trail rules will be posted at entryways to reinforce that non-motorized vehicles are not allowed, with an exception for electric wheelchairs.
D	"Concern expressed about how far apart trail access points are located."	Trail access points are currently shown at 4 locations. 1) Westmont Ave., 2) behind Forest Hill Elementary, 3) on-street portion between McCoy and W. San Tomas Aquino and 4) Virginia Ave. The furthest distance between access points is approximately 1 mile between the intersection of W. San Tomas Aquino and Harriet east to Virginia Ave. Half of this segment is behind homes and the other half runs parallel to W. San Tomas Aquino where no crosswalks exist or are planned. Additional access points are not available due to existing developed properties. Alignment is easily viewed by adjacent school grounds and fencing is to remain visually-open (chain link, tubular steel, etc).
E	Where trail meets Westmont Ave would be a good place for a trailhead.	Preliminary trail alignment plan shows trailhead at Westmont Ave. Study will offer some general guidance on visual enhancements to reinforce this point of entry (signage, architecture and other design features)
F	Provide connections for students to get on trail.	Trail connections provided at 4 locations in the community as well as right at the back of Westmont High School and Forest Hill Elementary. Study team is consulting with school representatives to ensure good security but available access to the trail.

III Trail Alignment & Design

	COMMENT	RESPONSE
A	Consider using trail funding to improve sidewalks in the neighborhood, including south side of Hazel Ave.	Funds including grant funds appropriated for this project can only be used for this creek trail project.
B	Trail would help get people downtown	The eastern extent of the trail connects to an existing bike route which leads to the pedestrian bridge over San Tomas Expressway and into John D. Morgan Park. From there, the bike route continues down Rincon Ave across Winchester Blvd and into downtown. A fully off-street trail connection to downtown does not appear to be available, so plan leverages existing bike lanes to make the connection.
C	Trail would provide safe route for children and local commuters	Trail would provide safe, off-street transportation connecting neighborhoods and schools not currently available. Study defines a preferred alignment for the trail system.
D	Concern about how a trail would be built since the space is so narrow in places	Preliminary trail alignment plan shows where trail could go. In some areas, the trail can only go on one side of the creek because of the narrow width available. The trail alignment currently shown varies in width, but is never less than 8' wide and in some places can accommodate a full class I designated trail (10' trail with 2' shoulders).
E	Trail would need to avoid utilities easements behind Westmont High School	There is a sanitary sewer line and accompanying manholes as well as overhead utilities behind the high school. The trail should be able to avoid conflicts with these utilities.
F	Very little room between creek bank and San Tomas Aquino Rd.	The distance between the top of channel and the edge of road is sufficient to accommodate a class I trail.
G	Question asked which side of creek the trail would be built on.	Preliminary trail alignment plan shows where trail could go. It is shown on the south side of the creek from Westmont Ave. to behind the high school and elementary school. A bridge takes trail users to the north side all the way to McCoy. Trail users continue on-street to W. San Tomas Aquino Rd. and follow the south side of the creek the remainder of the trail to Virginia Ave.
H	Trail alignment should consider protection of native habitat and wildlife in creek	Should the project prove feasible and obtain conceptual approval by City Councils of Campbell and San Jose, an environmental document would be required before final design takes place. The document would determine the project's impact and what, if any, mitigations are required to offset impacts from the project.

IV Amenities & Maintenance

	COMMENT	RESPONSE
A	Concern raised about trash generated by trail users	Trash receptacles could be included in the design of the trail, with cans installed near roadway entries for easier servicing. Usage by regular visitors will bring "eyes" to the trail to support monitoring or, and discouraging of littering.
B	Consider including a buffer between the trail edge and properties adjacent to the creek	The trail occurs directly behind about 26 homes at the eastern extent. There would be a small buffer between the trail edge and residential fences of varying widths. An existing drainage swale would need to be retained along this edge as well.
C	Concern about lighting the trail and light intrusion into private property	The trail rules will indicate day time use. Furthermore, lighting may not be allowed by the agencies with jurisdictional oversight of the creek corridor as lights can have a negative impact on migratory patterns.
D	Improve or replace existing pedestrian bridge and make it ADA compliant. Kids climb on outside of bridge	The bridge structure itself can probably be made ADA compliant. The difficulty is in making the pathway to Silacci Dr. ADA compliant. Additionally, the water district or Army Corps of Engineers may require a higher bridge deck elevation further exacerbating the difficulty in making the Silacci Dr. connection ADA compliant.
E	Will trail surface be paved? Would be good to have two lanes (one for walkers/joggers and the other for bicyclists)	The purpose of the study is to define a preferred alignment. Trail surfacing may be gravel or paved. A final determination would be made as part of a future environmental study. Trails in the region use a Common design approach where multiple user types share the same space. Trail design may include signage to remind cyclists to "yield to peds" and "pass to the left".
F	Will trail have restrooms along the alignment?	The trail alignment is relatively short and will likely draw regular users from the adjacent neighborhood. There does not appear to be the need for a restroom.
G	How often will trail be maintained?	A maintenance schedule would be devised based on final design of the facility.
H	Consider adding fencing on creek side of the trail.	In places where the trail is immediately adjacent to the creek channel, a fence or barrier may be advisable. This is especially true along San Tomas Aquino Rd where the creek is within a deep concrete lined channel, where we've shown a barrier.
I	If trees are planted, who will maintain them?	The City will be responsible for maintenance of trail improvements and facilities.
J	Benches along the trail might be intrusive or used for climbing	Benches, if used, would be placed off the trail and at logical stopping points (i.e. trailheads, interpretive signage, sites of natural beauty). The design of these installations would be mindful of adjacent properties and seek to maximize views of the creek.
K	Would City offer privacy fencing to residents as part of the project?	The Cities of Campbell and San Jose do not have "good neighbor" fence arrangements with property owners. Fencing is a property owner's responsibility and owners may choose to add or amend fencing in accordance with Planning Department guidance. The City of San Jose has documented trail alignments where neighbors removed solid fencing once a trail opened to improve their views.
L	What happens to existing fencing between properties and the proposed trail?	No alterations are planned to existing fences. Per previous response to comment "K" of this section, property owners may alter or amend their fences with Planning Department guidance.
M	Has City considered a dog park as part of the trail project?	No, this trail is not being designed as a dog park. The site is narrow and not conducive to typical dog park design criteria such as large exercise areas.

V Traffic

	COMMENT	RESPONSE
A	Concern about cars speeding on San Tomas Aquino Rd. and whether a protective barrier would be installed to protect trail users	Preliminary trail alignment plan shows a guardrail installed at the curve of San Tomas Aquino Rd. The final design and installation of traffic improvements would be conducted under guidance of a traffic engineer.
B	The intersection where Harriet, McCoy, San Tomas Aquino and Keith come together is dangerous. No sidewalk on east side of bridge. Visibility is poor (low lighting, overhanging trees). Concerned with adding more complexity to intersection	Trail alignment plan shows pedestrians utilizing sidewalks and crosswalks and bicyclists using green-backed sharrows in the street. These improvements coupled with traffic safety improvements proposed by the City improve safety for trail users.
C	Concern about more parked cars in the neighborhood with addition of trail	Trail would likely draw users from the immediate neighborhood and should encourage more walking and bicycling, not more cars.
D	Introduction of trail not likely to increase number of parked cars in the neighborhood	See the response to comment "C" of this section.
E	Vehicles speed around the Silacci Dr curve	Trail not likely to affect or be affected by speeding on Silacci. Enforcement currently occurs in this neighborhood and PD responds to all traffic complaints.
F	Not enough on-street parking at the Silacci curve as it is today	Trail not likely to impact on-street parking.
G	Parents currently drop off students on Silacci Dr so they can access Forest Hill via pedestrian bridge.	Trail not likely to impact drop-off patterns.
H	Cars have driven into the creek at the curve on San Tomas Aquino Rd	Preliminary trail alignment plan shows a guardrail at the curve.
I	Trail will get cars off the street	Noted.

VI Safety & Security

COMMENT

RESPONSE

A	Channelized portion of the creek east of Harriet is a drowning hazard	Preliminary trail alignment plan shows a barrier fence at the top of channel.
B	Some neighbors have chain link backing up to creek and will lose privacy and open up sight lines to their homes	On other trail systems in the south bay where homes are immediately adjacent to a trail, some neighbors have actually installed visually open fencing to maintain their views.
C	How will trail be policed? How will jurisdictions coordinate?	Campbell and San Jose would respond to calls within their respective jurisdictions, whether they were in progress or a crime which occurred previously. Each jurisdiction would be responsible for investigating crimes in their city. Mutual aid coordination would occur on crimes in progress where the suspect flees into the others jurisdiction.
D	How will medical personnel get to someone that's injured on the trail?	There would be access points along the trail with mile markers denoting location (or similar location device) and enough room on the trail to fit a vehicle for transporting anyone having a medical issue.
E	Introducing a trail behind homes will cause dogs to bark	People that currently enter the creek corridor cause dogs to bark. Introduction of a trail is not likely to make the situation any worse.
F	Increased foot traffic will mean more "undesirables" behind homes (vagrants, criminals)	From local and national examples, the City anticipates that a formal trail open to the public will help to discourage some of the negative conditions occurring presently in the unmonitored riparian corridor.
G	Residents concerned about increased noise with addition of trail	Across the spectrum of recreational activities, trail use is one of the more passive activities and should not contribute much to increased noise. Especially since trail users are passing by and not typically stopped at one location for any significant period of time.
H	More people in the creek will mean less "undesirables" (self-policing)	See response to comment "F" of this section.
I	Argument that trail will improve safety is false	See response to comment "F" of this section.
J	Concern about trail users entering backyards, climbing fences	See response to comment "F" of this section. In addition, the majority of the trail is located on the creek bank opposite residential backyards, except for the segment east of the San Tomas Aquino Rd. curve. The creek provides a natural barrier/buffer between most of the trail and residential properties. In areas where the trail runs behind residences, having people on the trail will help discourage would-be criminals from climbing the fence. The trail will be designed to provide a small buffer between trail edge and fences where space permits. Homeowners may also elect to install fencing that is more difficult to climb.
K	What are proposed hours of operation?	Trail operating hours will be similar to City parks, which is dawn to dusk.
L	Neighborhood experiences some crime (burglaries, vandalism)	See response to letter "F" of this section. Existing crime in the neighborhood is not likely to be impacted by the implementation of a trail.
M	Gang activity on occasion within the corridor	See response to comment "F" of this section.
N	Concern about introducing a trail with homeless encampment so close by	See response to comment "F" of this section. In addition, targeted pruning of low-hanging vegetation to improve visibility would help discourage encampments from getting established. This is done in conjunction with SCVWD.
O	There are examples of successful trails behind homes in the area that have dealt with security	Yes, there are numerous examples exhibiting similar trail design conditions, including Los Gatos Creek Trail and Albertson Parkway among others.
P	Securing the school sites is important	Fencing and managed access gates are shown on the preliminary trail alignment plan at both Forest Hill and Westmont.
Q	Resident would have to put up a new fence and would lose view into creek	See response to comment "B" of this section.
R	Provide crime data relative to trail development.	See response to comment "F" of this section. Crime data specific to trail development is not currently available.
S	Graffiti is common	With the implementation of a trail, the City of Campbell would include the trail in its anti-graffiti program. The City of San Jose would fund resources for regular maintenance of the trail system within its jurisdiction. This would support litter pick-up and graffiti removal. The City seeks support from the community and its own programs for minimizing the occurrence of graffiti through programs like: http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/antigrffiti/

VII Schedule, Funding & Process

COMMENT

RESPONSE

A	When are the public hearings and what format will they be?	The public hearings will take a couple different forms. The first public meeting was conducted on June 6, 2016 to obtain community input on the idea of a trail. The second community meeting is scheduled for mid-September 2016 and will provide an opportunity for the community to evaluate a preliminary trail alignment. A third community meeting may be held depending on the input received at the second meeting. The project would then go before the Parks and Recreation Commission and ultimately City Council, both of which are public hearings where the community may comment.
B	How will project be funded?	Local funds and grant funds have been appropriated for feasibility study, conceptual design, portion of final design and portion of construction. It is likely additional funding will be required to fully build out the creek trail. A step-by-step approach is common to trail development.
C	Is money set aside for police patrols, trash and restrooms?	City will be responsible for police, and other maintenance of the creek trail. San Jose budgets \$15,000 / mile of trail for regular maintenance, Park Rangers and other expenses.
D	An hour was not long enough for the break-out groups	The second community meeting will be an open-house style meeting conducted during a 4-hour window.
E	How adequately have these concerns been addressed on other trails in the South Bay?	See response to comment "O" in the section on Safety & Security.
F	What problem does the trail solve?	The trail provides a safe, mostly off-street alternative mode of transportation connecting schools and neighborhoods. The trail is also consistent with the goals stated in the City's General Plan. Specifically, "explore the possibility of a multiple use recreational trail along San Tomas Aquino Creek". Also, "provide pedestrian and bike routes that link residential areas to open space, parks and recreational facilities to create a physically connected community."
G	How many trail users are expected to use this trail?	Number of trail users is hard to estimate. Given the location of the trail, it would likely serve the adjacent neighborhoods and not become a regional draw.
H	Is it possible to use funding from this project for video surveillance in the creek?	No - funding for this project is allocated to the Study only. Video surveillance can offer benefits if constantly monitored and interpreted by law enforcement staff. Current staffing does not permit for observing areas in this manner. A well developed trail with clear site lines will support safer operations. Good usage by area residents will encourage self-monitoring of the corridor.
I	Would like to hear police department's opinion on the project?	Police department representatives from both Campbell and San Jose will attend the second community meeting.
J	Would there be volunteer opportunities if trail is built?	Yes, open spaces like the creek trail are great opportunities for volunteer work. The City of San Jose manages an "Adopt-A-Trail" program and will initiate outreach once a project is developed. http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=591
K	Request for systematic polling to gauge community-wide interest in this trail	Materials presented at the second community workshop will be posted on the City's website immediately afterward for community review and comment. This option allows for another means of collecting input from the community.
L	Concern raised about the definition of project stakeholders	Going forward, the term "stakeholder" will be used more broadly to include the community.
M	Will the project go before San Jose City Council?	City of San Jose staff is actively involved with the project and will assist in guiding this project through their City review and approval procedures once the project is past the feasibility study phase.
N	Will neighbors adjacent to the creek get more weight in the decision-making process?	No, all members of the community have equal weight in providing input on the project.
O	Is eminent domain under consideration to make the project happen?	Eminent domain is not under consideration to make the trail project happen.
P	Have previous studies been done on this trail? If so, can they be made available to the public?	No previous studies have been prepared for this trail.
Q	Why spend resources on this project when there are greater needs in the City?	The City of Campbell and San Jose have commitments to recreation and active transportation per Council actions, priorities, policies and planning documents. Currently over 80% of project funding is comprised of grant funds. Also, see response to comment "F" of this section. Development of a trail is consistent with efforts to support healthy and enjoyable communities.